



**Montgomery County Commission on Veterans Affairs
Meeting Summary Minutes
January 17th, 2012**

I. Call to Order & Introductions: Bill Gray, Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Commission on Veterans Affairs (CVA). Bill asked for all present to stand for a moment of silence for all of those who have given their lives and those who have been wounded for our country in the different conflicts in which our country has been engaged, and to remain standing for the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Approval of Minutes: Mike Subin, Commissioner, made a motion to accept the minutes as written. J. Mauri Hamilton, Commissioner, seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the December Meeting Summary Minutes were unanimously approved. Approved minutes are available online at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cva.

III. Tribute to Gregory V. Hamilton, U.S. Navy, Vietnam Veteran

CVA hosted a tribute to honor Gregory V. Hamilton, U.S. Navy, Vietnam Veteran. Greg has been a staunch advocate for services to veterans and for recommending to the County Executive that he establish the Commission on Veterans Affairs in Montgomery County. Greg received a proclamation and thank you from County Executive Isiah Leggett; a Congressional citation presented by Ann Humphrey, representing Congressman Chris Van Hollen; a Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) Achievement Medal presented by Tom Insley, MD State Council President, VVA; a Certificate of Appreciation presented by Bill Bennett, President, Montgomery County Chapter 641, VVA; and Appreciation for Years of Service presented by Murray Hall, President, Rolling Thunder Maryland 1, Assistant State Director, MD/VA. Congressman Van Hollen also had an entry made in the Congressional Record outlining Greg's service to our country. County Executive Leggett was in attendance and commended Greg for his outstanding years of service to veterans and our community. Greg asked the Commission to get more involved in issues relating to the effects of Agent Orange and to assist veterans to get the services that they need.

View the County Executive proclamation for Gregory V. Hamilton Day – January 20, 2012:
www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/hhs/ads/PDFs/greghamiltonproclamation.pdf.

View photos of the event taken by Jerry Nelson, photographer, of www.journeyamerica.org
www.journeyamerica.org/People/Greg-Hamilton/21082664_XVXPrj#!i=1676721277&k=473qbSm.

View Congressional Record January 13, 2012 pages 5-6
www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CREC-2012-01-13/pdf/CREC-2012-01-13.pdf

HONORING GREG HAMILTON
HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN
OF MARYLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, January 13, 2012
Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today
to pay tribute to the extraordinary achievements
of my constituent, Mr. Gregory V. Hamilton.
Greg is dedicated and he is passionate,

and he has devoted his entire life to serving our country, his community, and the causes he champions so well. Many Montgomery County residents know him by his signature braids and his colorful garb that reflect his love of country, his Native American heritage, and his pride as a Vietnam veteran.

Unfortunately, Greg's braids are gone now, a victim to the cancer that is ravaging his body because of his exposure to Agent Orange during his service in Vietnam in 1969 and 1970.

Greg served in the U.S. Navy and was honorably discharged in 1970. He received numerous medals and ribbons for his service, including the Meritorious Unit Commendation Ribbon and the Combat Action Ribbon for his service on the USS *Hickman County LST 825* in the Brown Water Navy in Vietnam.

Despite his lifelong fight against the effects of Agent Orange—or maybe because of it—he is passionate about improving the lives of veterans nationwide, and he has dedicated himself to doing so. A lifetime member of Vietnam Veterans of America and a committed member of Rolling Thunder Maryland Chapter 1, Greg has for many years been a part of the Wall Washing Crew, volunteers who wash and maintain the Vietnam Veterans Memorial from April to November each year. He also participates in the arrival of “Honor Flights,” greeting and escorting World War II veterans to the Memorial in Washington, DC. Greg has been active in assisting those affected by military life ever since his own discharge 40 years ago. He supports military families by sharing with them his own experiences and offering advice. He was critical to the creation of the Montgomery County Commission on Veterans Affairs and, most recently, he has been involved in the Mental Health Association of Montgomery County's initiative “Serving Together: Troops, Veterans, and Family Care Project.” He has tirelessly provided support and care for military families throughout our community.

Greg is of African-American and Cherokee descent. He maintains a strong connection to his Native American heritage, having spent much of his life working with Native American organizations. In 2002, he was elected Council President of the American Indian Heritage and

Education Association, Inc., an organization that serves the Native American community by honoring Native American culture and providing outreach to veterans and their families.

In 1995, he helped plan the first American Indian Heritage Day Powwow in Montgomery County. More recently, he has produced two public access cable shows—“American Indians: Past and Present” and “Our Veterans, Our Warriors.”

Greg’s professional career has also been devoted to public service. He has served on countless boards and committees around Montgomery County. For example, he was President of the Park Ritchie Tenants’ Association, Inc., served on the Board of Directors of Suburban Maryland Fair Housing, Inc., served three terms as a Councilmember for the City of Takoma Park, and served as chair of the Takoma Park Cable TV Advisory Board, the Montgomery County Community Leadership Task Force on Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention, and the Public, Health and Safety Committee and the Housing Committee of the City Council. Greg’s level of community involvement is extraordinary—he has never hesitated to be involved, to take a stand and to make a difference.

Every resident of Montgomery County, Maryland and every veteran in America owes a debt of gratitude to Greg Hamilton for his dedicated, selfless, and passionate work. I am proud to speak today to honor this extraordinary man. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Greg’s many accomplishments, his lifelong work on behalf of our Nation’s veterans and his profound commitment to honoring their service.

IV. The Use of Electroencephalography (EEG) Biofeedback for the Treatment of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) – Mary Lee Esty, LCSW-C, Ph.D.

Mary Lee Esty is president of the Neurotherapy Center of Washington, Inc. in Chevy Chase, MD. Her work focuses on EEG stimulation biofeedback in the treatment of fibromyalgia, brain injuries, PTSD and learning disorders. She was co-principal investigator in a study funded by a National Institute of Health (NIH) block grant looking at the effect of EEG-drive stimulation on mild/moderate TBI. EEG stimulation neurofeedback attempts to alleviate injury caused by brain trauma, thereby improving functioning and quality of life. 12 participants were recruited who experienced mild to moderate severe closed head injury 36 months to 21 years prior to the study. After 25 treatment sessions, 7 of the 12 participants returned to employment at the same level as pre-trauma. For more detailed notes regarding the study, view: [Treatment Results for Mild/Moderate Traumatic Brain Injury Using EEG](#)

Data Provides Quantitative Information with Predictive Value for Rehabilitation Outcomes and Treatment Planning.

The equipment Mary uses was approved by the Federal Drug Administration in 1998 and operates at one-trillionth of a watt. It operates at the same range of power as the electricity that the brain itself produces. The electricity amount is so small that the brain doesn't resist the signal and this is how it is able to affect change in the brain. She has treated children and adults from the ages of 4 to 96. She has reviewed her files since 1994 and assessed that treatment has had over a 66% positive outcome. No person has obtained worse symptoms than prior to treatment. The effects of the treatment do not wear off unless the individual suffers another head trauma. Treatments are scheduled two or three days a week for thirty minutes at a time, but they typically last four minutes or less. SIGNA, Aetna and United Healthcare insurance companies will pay part of the costs for treatment.

Mary is currently conducting a study for qualifying veterans with exposure to blast events and/or loss of consciousness. She has treated 8 Operating Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) veterans. TRICARE is paying for treatment for one of the participants. One of the veterans has written notes regarding her experience and outcome: [OEF/OIF Soldier's Notes About Neurofeedback Treatment](#). For more info about the study and qualifications to participate, view [Study For Qualifying Veterans With Exposure to Blast Events and/or Loss of Consciousness](#). The Journal of Neuropsychiatry and Clinical Neurosciences will be publishing the research from this study.

Handout: [Vietnam Veteran Data – Neurofeedback Therapy to Treat TBI and PTSD](#)

PowerPoint Presentation:

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/hhs/ads/CVA/Minutes/2012/useofeegbiofeedbackpresentation.pdf

V. Update on Veterans Collaborative

Due to time constraints, update will be given at February meeting.

VI. Chair and Vice Chair Report

Due to time constraints, update will be given at February meeting.

VII. New Business

Please send your ideas and thoughts for planning the 3rd Annual Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Event on March 30th, 2012, to Betsy Luecking at betsy.luecking@montgomerycountymd.gov.

VIII. Announcements

Adjournment: 8:00 p.m.

Next Full Commission Meeting:

Tuesday, February 21st, 2012, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at 401 Hungerford Drive, Rockville in the 1st Floor Tan Conference Room.

Respectively submitted:

Carly Clem, OSC

Betsy Luecking, Staff Liaison